

## **Approved Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture (ACAC)**

October 1, 2015, Cutter Gallery

**Attending:** Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Barbara Costa, Adria Arch, Jonathan Hyde, and Amy Mongeau (cultural liaison)

**Absent:** Aimee Taberner, Carla Dorato, and Leland Stein

**Also attending:** Nicholas Greenhalgh, reporter for the *Advocate*

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm.

- **Minutes** of ACAC September 3 meeting were unanimously approved.
- **Arlington Center for the Arts.** There was extensive discussion about the possibility that ACA could lose its space at the Gibbs School if the School Department decides to reactivate the building as part of the solution to projected increases in student enrollment. ACA's lease expires June 2017. The discussion focused on the critical role that the ACA plays in the cultural life of the town. Its programs and facilities serve hundreds of children, adults, individual artists, and other cultural nonprofits. B. Costa pointed out that the ACA is also an integral component of the planned cultural district. 70% of ACA's operating budget comes from its summer camp program so any new space would have to accommodate this program. S. Marlin-Curiel spoke in support of the ACA and its mission at the September 24 open meeting. If the ACA does have to find a new home, the state's Cultural Facilities Fund would be a potential source of capital funding. The consensus was that ACAC's role should be to help keep the issue front and center in the town.
- **Cultural District planning update.** The map of the proposed map has been sent to Meri Jenkins at the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). When the MCC has completed its review and the geographic boundaries are established, the application document can be completed. The Managing Partnership is a critical part of the application and the key to the ongoing success of the district. In Concord, the Chamber of Commerce is the sole entity that manages its cultural district, the Arlington Managing Partnership has developed a different model that shares the workload. The Partnership consists of:
  - The Robbins Library
  - Arlington Center for the Arts
  - Friends of the Drama
  - St. John's Coffeehouse
  - The Capital Square Business Association
  - Arlington Center Merchants
  - Arlington Chamber of Commerce
  - The Cyrus Dallin Art Museum

The organizations' respective boards have agreed to be part of the partnership. Joe Curro has been very supportive and actively involved in the organizational process.

- **Cultural plan.** Plan to conduct more research on cultural planners and costs: J. Hyde will contact NEFA, B. Costa will discuss with MAPC, S. Marlin-Curiel will contact Northampton. Based on availability, A. Arch, J. Hyde, S. Marlin-Curiel, B. Costa, and A. Taberner will meet with the Town Manager to discuss funding for the plan as well as ACAC funding for FY2017.
- **Public art program for East Arlington.** A. Arch reported on Arlington Public Art's (APA) plans for integrating public art into the East Arlington Mass Ave redevelopment. APA has retained public art consultant Cecily Miller to develop a plan. Miller and APA are conducting a series of public meetings with neighbors, businesses, and organizations. (Arch suggested this highly transparent process could be a model for development of the cultural plan.) The original 3 spots designated for public art will be replaced with more suitable locations. The APA is working with Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine on financial support in FY2017. The initial program will consist of one large project to be installed by September 2016 and smaller projects over the summer. All will be temporary, setting the stage for permanent installations in the future. Upcoming meetings: October 6, stakeholders' meeting; November 4, big public meeting at the Robbins Library.
- **Treasurer's Report:** No report – Treasurer L. Stein was absent.
- **Town Day:** There was agreement that ACAC's booth was a good start but, in the future, it needs to be more dynamic. Ideas include: giveaways, art spinner, having all the art- and culture-related booths in a cultural corridor.
- **New business:** A. Mongeau reported that event listings on ACAC's blog/Web site peak after Town Day but, in general it's challenging to get town cultural organizations and events to post on the blog.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.